

# SC Annual School District Report Card Summary

**Laurens School District 55 School District**  
**Grades: PK-12** **Enrollment: 5,941**  
**Superintendent: Dr. Billy R. Strickland**  
**Board Chair: Rev. Charlie Short**

## PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://www.eoc.sc.gov) as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		ESEA/FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SYSTEM	
			General Performance	Closing the Gap	ESEA Grade	Accountability Indicator
2012	Average	Excellent	N/A	N/A	B	N/A
2011	Below Average	Excellent	N/A	N/A	Not Met	CA
2010	Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	CDI

## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF DISTRICTS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
5	3	14	1	1

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/07/2012. Districts with Students Like Ours are Districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

PASS					
PASS	2012 Reading	2012 Math	2012 Science	2012 Social Studies	2012 Writing
	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above
District	71.9%	71.1%	69.6%	72.9%	71.7%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	69.2%	69.1%	66.6%	69.7%	69.3%
Average District	74.9%	74.3%	72.1%	74.8%	74.0%

PASS	2012 Reading	2012 Math	2012 Science	2012 Social Studies	2012 Writing
	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary
District	34.1%	26.5%	18.7%	26.3%	28.5%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	35.6%	29.5%	19.6%	27.8%	31.2%
Average District	42.7%	36.3%	24.8%	34.6%	37.3%

HSAP			
HSAP: 2nd Year Students	Passed 2 Subtests (%)	Passed 1 Subtest (%)	Passed No Subtests (%)
District	77.2%	15.0%	7.9%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	77.1%	13.4%	9.6%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2012 (%)	
District	88.6%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	90.4%

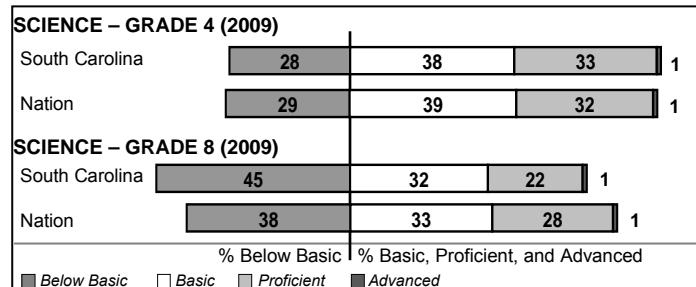
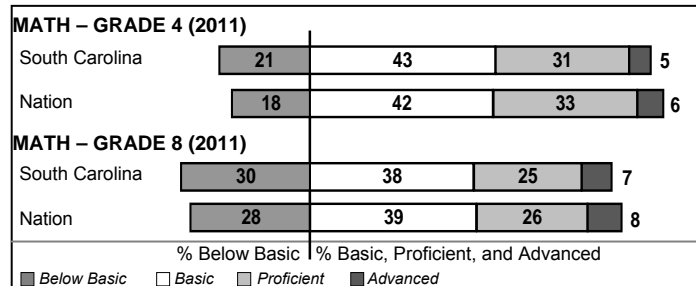
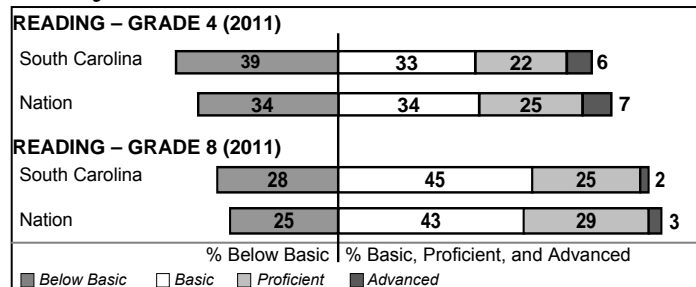
End of Course Test Passage Rate (%)	
District	72.9%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	65.6%

On-Time Graduation Rate (%)	
District	71.5%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	76.2%

\*\* Districts with Students Like Ours are districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

## NAEP\*

\* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.



## SC PERFORMANCE VISION

*By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.*

### Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined

# Laurens School District 55 School District

## DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
<b>Students (n=5,941)</b>				
Retention rate	3.9%	Up from 2.9%	2.2%	2.0%
Attendance rate	95.9%	No Change	96.0%	96.1%
Served by gifted and talented program	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Older than usual for grade	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.1%	Down from 0.4%	0.4%	0.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	13.9%	Down from 18.2%	8.3%	13.5%
Successful on AP/IB exams	33.3%	Up from 29.6%	48.5%	49.9%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	25.6%	Down from 29.7%	30.3%	30.3%
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	96	Down from 148	58	59
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	58	Down from 65	29	31
Annual dropout rate	4.7%	Down from 6.9%	3.1%	2.7%
<b>Teachers (n=329)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	60.8%	Up from 60.6%	62.4%	62.4%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	92.0%	Up from 91.4%	91.3%	91.1%
Teacher attendance rate	93.9%	Down from 94.3%	95.1%	95.1%
Average teacher salary*	\$45,013	Down 1.8%	\$46,100	\$46,595
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.1%
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.1%	Down from 0.5%	2.1%	2.1%
Professional development days/teacher	15.5 days	Up from 14.1 days	12.1 days	12.4 days
<b>District</b>				
Superintendent's years at district	3.0	Up from 2.0	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	24.1 to 1	No Change	22.6 to 1	21.7 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.3%	Down from 89.3%	89.8%	89.9%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,141	Up 60.1%	\$8,794	\$8,866
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	53.1%	Up from 50.7%	52.4%	53.1%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	54.9%	Down from 55.3%	54.4%	55.9%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Number of schools	11	No Change	7	9
Portable classrooms	1.4%	No Change	1.2%	1.4%
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	11.0	No Change	6.0	8.0
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	Up from 97.8%	99.6%	99.5%
Average administrator salary	\$80,794	Up 0.1%	\$77,514	\$77,744
Number of charter schools	0	No Change	0	0
ESEA composite index score	84.3	N/A	84.3	85.6

\* Length of contract = 185+ days.

\*\* Prior year audited financial data available.

## RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITIES STUDENT PERFORMANCE

	PASS	HSAP	End-of-Course Tests
Passage Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A

## CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

School Name	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating	ESEA Grade
There are no charter schools in this district.			

## REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Laurens School District 55 marked accomplishments despite the ongoing reduced state funding. By continuing to implement cost-saving measures involving all areas of operations, the district has maintained a stable financial position. Grant awards provided over \$500,000 for additional student resources. In our instructional program, we continue providing quality learning opportunities to meet the needs of our diverse students. Technology provides students access to various instructional software to assist with enriching and expanding student knowledge. Software programs range from providing access to software for reinforcing academic skills 24 hours a day to helping teach Latin to gifted and talented students to customized instruction for individual students. We have a longstanding tradition of excellence in our fine arts program. Kaleidoscope Showcase of the Arts, a weeklong schedule of activities involving all schools, takes place in the business district and is a joint effort with community partners. One of the districts major goals is to use data to drive the districts decisions and to individualize student instruction. Each school used its data to create a plan for improvement in the areas of student achievement, teacher/administrator quality and school climate. Professional growth is an important component in our districts commitment of having a highly qualified teacher in every classroom. Employees participated in over 3,000 hours of training provided by the district mostly in after-hours mini-courses. Our district child nutrition director was named the South Carolina Food Service Director of the Year. The transition program, which prepares students with disabilities to make the transition from school to the community and employment, received the Outstanding Program award from the South Carolina Council of Exceptional Children, division of Transition and Career Development. Our district is one of two districts in South Carolina to receive the designation to the College Boards second annual AP Honor Roll for significant gains in Advanced Placement access and student performance. Nine of our eleven schools received a Palmetto Silver award, which recognizes schools for academic achievement and closing achievement gaps. Parent, student, and teachers of the year advisory councils meet with the superintendent and staff throughout the year to share ideas, discuss initiatives, and provide and receive information on issues confronting the schools. These discussions help in planning for the future as the district embraces its vision, mission, and beliefs and focuses on community engagement and improving student test scores. The district implemented a five-year capital needs plan for the purpose of maintaining buildings and equipment in a clean and safe manner and planning for the repair and/or replacement of buildings and equipment. The Board of Trustees provides vision and valuable leadership and regularly recognizes staff and students for outstanding achievement. The Board of Trustees and administration appreciate your involvement in and support of our schools. Please feel free to contact me, the assistant superintendents, principals, and other school leaders whenever you have questions or concerns.

Billy R. Strickland, Ed.D. Superintendent

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N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined  
 NI Newly Identified CDI Continuing District Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY District Improvement Status HOLD District Improvement Status